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EXCISE

19
ACTION E-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-20 INT-06 OEP-01 AID-20 NSC-10
RSC-01 CIEP-01 SAL-02 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CIAE-00
COM-08 FRB-02 INR-06 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-06 OPIC-12
DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 L-03 P-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CEA-02
SA-03 RSR-01 /171 W

096816

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY cf DATE 6/23/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

R 180730Z DEC 71
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0718
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 00483

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 3.)X

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF BP - AMERICANS ARRIVE AS BRITISH DEPART

REF: BENGHAZI 0479

FROM MACK

1. NELSON BUNKER HUNT DELIVERED 25 EXPATRIATES TO BENGHAZI EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 18 IN CHARTERED AIRCRAFT. TOTAL NUMBER OF HUNT EXPATRIATES NOW IN BENGHAZI IS 27 WITH MORE TO COME. SO FAR AS WE KNOW ALL ARE AMERICANS.

2. MOST BP PERSONNEL ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE WORK TOMORROW (DECEMBER 19). EVEN THOSE FIVE WHO HAD AGREED TO WORK FOR AGEC AT 50 PERCENT SALARY INCREASES (REFTEL) HAVE NOW BACKED OUT.

[redacted] B4

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[redacted] (FOR TRIPOLI: CAN YOU FIND OUT WHETHER AMERICAN COMPANIES IN TRIPOLI ARE IN FACT INTERPRETING INDUSTRY NON COOPERATION AS EXTENDING TO PRODUCTION OPERATIONS WHICH AFFECT HUNT'S HALF INTEREST IN CONCESSION? [redacted] HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT INDUSTRY POSITION DID NOT GO BEYOND OPPOSITION TO COOPERATION IN MARKETING BP SHARE OF CRUDE.) B4 B4

3. [redacted] CLOSE TIMING OF AMERICANS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF BP PERSONNEL MAKES SMOOTH TURNOVER OF PRODUCTION A VERY DICEY MATTER. HOWEVER, HE IS GETTING FULL COOPERATION FROM LIBYANS, INSOFAR AS THEY HAVE CAPABILITY. AGEC INSURED THERE WOULD BE NO FUSS ABOUT VISAS OR WORK PERMITS FOR ARRIVING HUNT PERSONNEL. AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, NAGGING DISPUTES OVER EXPLORATION, METERING, GAS UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTION CONTROLS HAVE "EVAPORATED."
PALMER B4

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